



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**MANHATTAN TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO INFLATING  
DEDUCTIONS ON 39 RETURNS; FACES 3 YEARS IN U.S. PRISON**

DAVID E. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that THOMAS MARESE, pled guilty to aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false income tax returns for clients of his tax preparation business, Eagle Tax Preparation Service, located at 333 Pearl Street in Manhattan, New York.

According to the criminal Information to which MARESE pled guilty, MARESE solicited clients by word of mouth, and then prepared tax returns for them which claimed either fictitious or greatly exaggerated deductions for items such as medical expenses, gifts to charity and miscellaneous deductions. The Information further alleges that MARESE prepared 21 false returns claiming these types of false or inflated deductions for the 1999 and 2000 tax years. According to a written plea agreement, the total tax due on the 21 returns identified in the Information, and an additional 18 returns prepared by MARESE during the same time period is \$160,463.

The maximum penalty for the offense of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false income tax returns to which MARESE pled guilty is up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

Special Assistant United States Attorney ANDREW KAMEROS is in charge of the prosecution.

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